

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1.-55. (Canceled)

56. (New) A teat rubber for use on a milking cup of a milking apparatus, comprising

a head part having provided thereon a sealing lip that forms an insertion opening for a teat,

a holding edge for grasping a milking cup sleeve,

a suction connecting piece connected to the head part, as well as

a planar teat bearing section which is formed on the sealing lip provided on the head part and which defines the insertion opening,

a part of said insertion opening conically tapering towards the inner side of the teat rubber in such a way that an inner annular fold located on the base of the teat cannot come into contact with the teat rubber and that pressure cannot be applied thereto,

characterized in that,

when seen in a cross-sectional view, a conically tapering surface of the conically tapering insertion opening is convex or linear, and

that transitions between the conically tapering surface and a planar teat bearing section, as well as between the conically tapering surface and an udder bearing surface, are respectively implemented in a hingelike manner.

57. (New) A teat rubber according to claim 56, characterized in that the hingelike transitions comprises one of a portion of reduced material thickness, an indentation and

a variation of the material properties in comparison with the properties of the adjoining material, so that the transitions will assume hingelike properties.

58. (New) A teat rubber according to claim 56, characterized in that at least one of at least a part of the planar teat bearing section and inner surfaces of a suction connecting piece have cushioned surfaces.

59. (New) A teat rubber according to claim 58, characterized in that the cushioned surface consists of a foamed elastomer.

60. (New) A teat rubber according to claim 59, characterized in that the foamed elastomer is a foam silicone.

61. (New) A teat rubber according to claim 59, characterized in that the foamed elastomer is sprayed onto the surface of the component in question.

62. (New) A teat rubber according to claim 59, characterized in that at least one of a whole planar teat bearing section and the suction connecting piece consist of the foamed elastomer.

63. (New) A teat rubber according to claim 58, characterized in that the cushioned surfaces are implemented as cushioned pockets.

64. (New) A teat rubber according to claim 58, characterized in that the cushioned surfaces are a fluid-filled pad.

65. (New) A teat rubber according to claim 63, characterized in that the cushioned surfaces are a replaceable insert.

66. (New) A teat rubber according to claim 64, characterized in that the cushioned surfaces are a replaceable insert.